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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/07

SPONSOR Altamirano LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE 6th Judicial District Restorative Justice SB 138

ANALYST C.Sanchez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
\$0.0	\$270.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

This Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee sponsored bill provides for an appropriation of \$270,000 from the general fund to the sixth judicial district court for expenditure in FY 2008 to provide juvenile and adult offender restorative justice services in the sixth judicial district, including mediation, community conferencing and justice circles. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

The Restorative Justice Program claims to provide the following benefits:

- Victims are provided an opportunity to face the offender, ask questions only the offender can answer, and express the impact of the crime on themselves and their family.
- The community has a meaningful voice in the cause and effect of crime in their neighborhoods.
- Studies consistently show a reduction in repeat offenses by offenders after participating in restorative justice. Offenders realize that it is about more than just breaking the law, and that they have affected others. They are in turn supported in repairing the harm in a meaningful way.
- Participants indicate high satisfaction for the process.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$270,000 is to hire an employee (.5 FTE) to support this project. The remaining funds (contractual) will be used for the design and implementation of restorative justice practices and research and evaluation to incorporate best practices and monitor and demonstrate effectiveness. Community volunteers and donations will provide additional support.

The total amount of \$270,000 is recurring expenses and increases the budget of the sixth judicial district court.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill will increase the 6th Judicial District's Budget by 10 percent.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

A portion of the funding will be used to evaluate the program, incorporate best practices and monitor and demonstrate the effectiveness of the program.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Would a smaller appropriation produce similar results?

CS/csd